

# Papers of William Foster Hayes (1868-1964)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 2001

Loose documents and genealogical papers of the late, William Foster Hayes (1868-1964), were donated to the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY. Jerry Long organized the loose documents and arranged them into a volume that was bound and placed in the family histories section of the Kentucky Room (catalog # KR G Hays). The volume includes his Memoirs and a record of the Hayes, Miller, Haynes and Kincheloe families.

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Messenger & Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 7 October 1964, p1:

W. FOSTER HAYES  
Former Local City Historian  
Dies In Illinois

HARVEY, III. — William Foster Hayes, 96, author of "Sixty Years of Owensboro", and a practicing attorney for many years, died Monday night. He moved to this Chicago suburb 38 years ago.

He helped found the Woodlawn Methodist Church in Owensboro. His book about Owensboro covered the period from 1883 to 1943.

According to a biographical sketch prepared for the book by J. L. Foust, Mr. Hayes was born in Bradfordville in Marion County on June 4, 1868, the son of Rev. George H. Hayes and Hannah Kincheloe Hayes.

During his youth, he lived at Hodgenville, Greenville, Cloverport, Owensboro and Henderson, graduating from Henderson High School in 1886. He studied law in the office of Wilbur F. Barclay in Russellville and was admitted to the Kentucky Bar in 1889.

Mr. Hayes moved to Owensboro that year and remained until 1927 when he moved to Harvey. In 1892 he married Ambie Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Miller. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes lived at 1408 Parrish Ave.

In 1928 he was admitted to the Illinois Bar but continued to do some work in Kentucky, especially before the Court of Appeals.

One of his earliest writings was "Essentials of Culture," which was prepared as an original paper for the Investigators Club. It was published by the Owensboro Inquirer. He wrote several other published essays.

With the help of several friends in Owensboro, he worked for six years in compiling the study of the city for publication. The book, with illustrations, contains 386 pages.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. James T. Wilkes; Harvey; a son, William F. Hayes, Chicago, senior vice president of the Field Enterprises Educational Corp., nine grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 7:30 p.m. today in the Federated Church at Harvey. The body will be taken directly from Harvey to the Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro by the Kerr Funeral Home. The Rev. John Spalding, pastor of the Woodlawn Methodist Church, will officiate at the gravesite services at 3 p.m. Thursday.

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Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 19 November 1944, p.1B:

Foster Hayes' History Of Owensboro Has Been  
Compiled and is Now Ready For Publishers

Hayes History of Owensboro, written by W. Foster Hayes for many years a prominent attorney in Owensboro has been compiled and is now ready for the publishers. Publication will begin as soon as the necessary number of copies, to cover cost of producing it, have been subscribed for, it was announced last week by the committee for publication. This committee includes Wilbur K. Miller, Robert Triplett, R. Miller Holland and J. L. Foust, superintendent of the Owensboro Public schools.

Hayes History of Owensboro will contain about 400 pages; It covers the period from 1883 to 1943, an earlier history covering the time to 1883. Special attention has been given to cultural things. The volume will also include a number of pictures of persons and places. These were selected by Mr. Hayes himself.

Already a total of 300 copies has been sold. An additional 450 will have to be sold, to cover cost of publication. The history will be sold at \$3 a copy. Mr. Hayes will autograph the first 750 copies.

The author, in telling of some of its unusual features of the history stated that in addition to facts usually found in histories, the Hayes History of Owensboro will give an account of the Owensboro, Falls of Rough and Green River railroad; The Daviess County Academy of Science, The Owensboro Female College, Columbian College; a history of the municipal light plant and of the water plant; the disappearance of a street intersection. in the business section of Owensboro that left a yawning hole for which Owensboro was noted for weeks; the real beginning of the street improvements; the plan and construction of the sewer system; a complete list of Owensboro's postmasters and Owensboro's mayors; a history of various churches with succession of pastors for the last sixty years; an account of the bitter and spectacular Goebel campaign in Owensboro; the local option campaigns and the murder of a jailer by a mob.

Mr. Hayes, who was born in Bradfordsville, Marion county in 1868, is the son of the late Rev. George Hayes and Hannah Kincheloe Hayes. During his youth he resided in several sections of the state including Hodgenville, Greenville, Cloverport, Owensboro and Henderson, graduating from Henderson High school in 1886. He had no further schooling, but studied law in the office of Wilbur F. Barclay in Russellville, and was admitted to the bar in 1889. He came to Owensboro that year and resided here until December, 1927, when he moved to Harvey, III. In 1892 he married Miss Amble Miller, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John S. Miller. The couple lived at 1408 Parrish avenue until 1927.

Mr. Hayes is not new in the writing world. "I have always been susceptible to the writing itch," he stated. One of his earliest works was "Essentials of Culture," which was prepared as an original paper for the Investigators club and was published in the Inquirer at the request of the club shortly before 1900. Among later publications are "Charles Reade, An Appreciation," "The

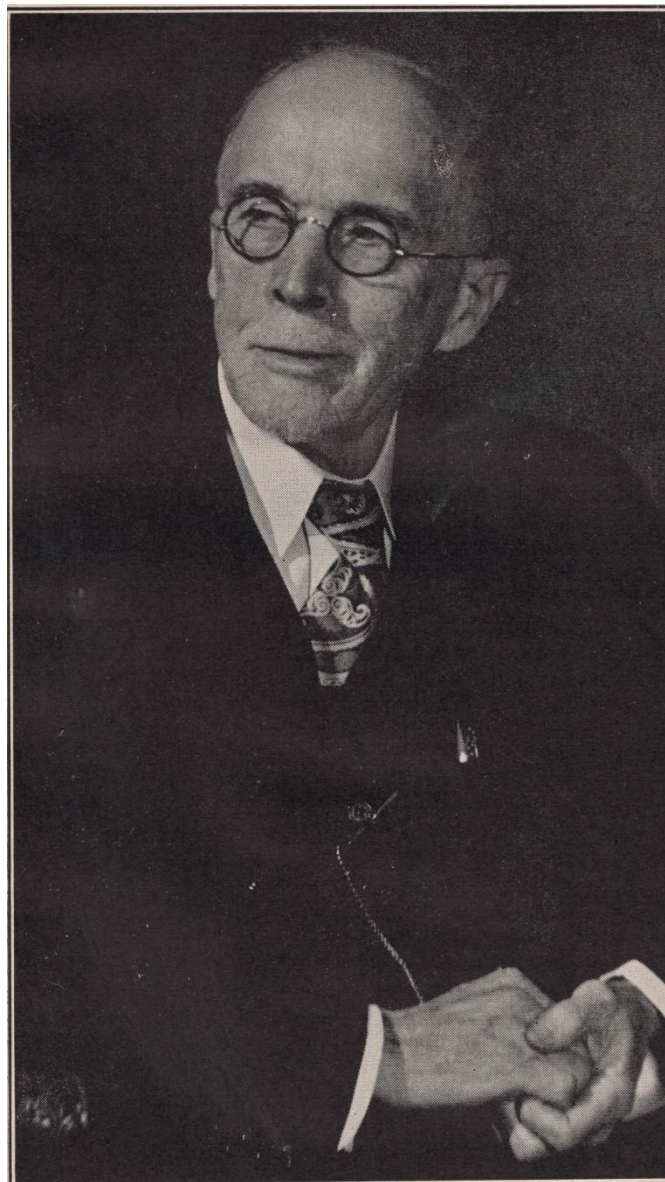
Pulpit and the Lyre," "Is the Ministry a Profession?" "Adventures in Reading" was published in 1940. A carefully prepared lecture, "Ideals" has been delivered several times.

The author, who is a Methodist by rearing and temperament, still retains his membership at Woodlawn Methodist church in Owensboro, but In Harvey is a member of the Federated church, Congregational-Presbyterian.

As to politics, Mr. Hayes had the following to say about himself: "I am always actively interested in politics, but have never sought office. I am Democratic, but always independently so. Am still so in the Woodrow Wilson sense, but have always disapproved and voted against our present distinguished president."

For the convenience of readers of the Messenger, an advertisement carried elsewhere in this paper, bears a subscription blank, which may be signed and mailed to Supt. Foust.

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WILLIAM FOSTER HAYES



Elmwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY

